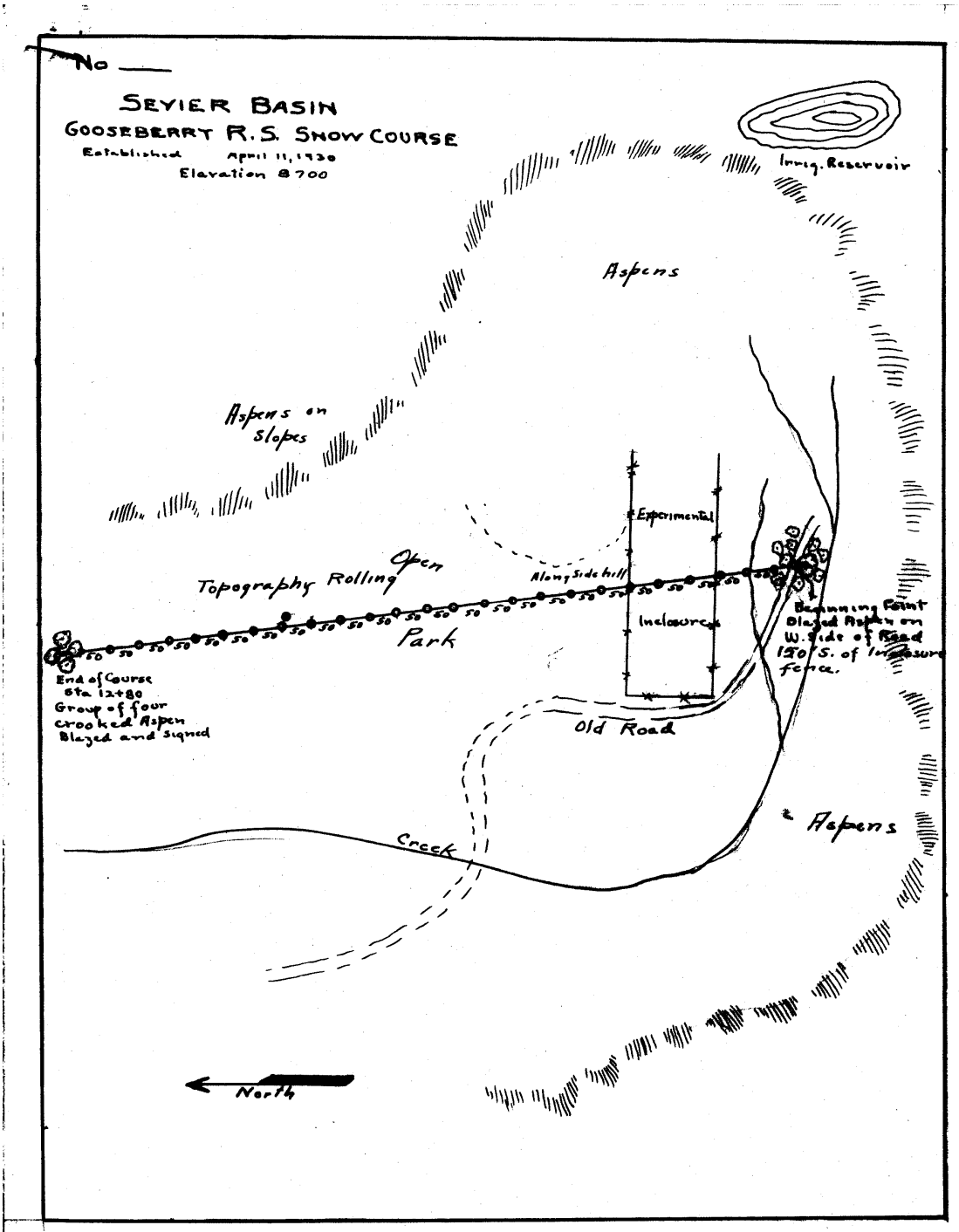
Gooseberry RS

The Gooseberry Ranger Station snow course is located at an elevation of 8400 foot msl on Gooseberry Creek, a tributary of Salina Creek that flows into the Sevier River.. It is in a large open meadow surrounded by aspen stands and is on a fairly steep gradient with a northern exposure. The vegetation here has been remarkably consistent over the past 80 years with little to no encroachment by the woody species. There is a small ditch at the top of the course which has been discontinued or at least appears to be discontinued and has had not maintenance in many years.
Potential weather modification: 74-83, 88-

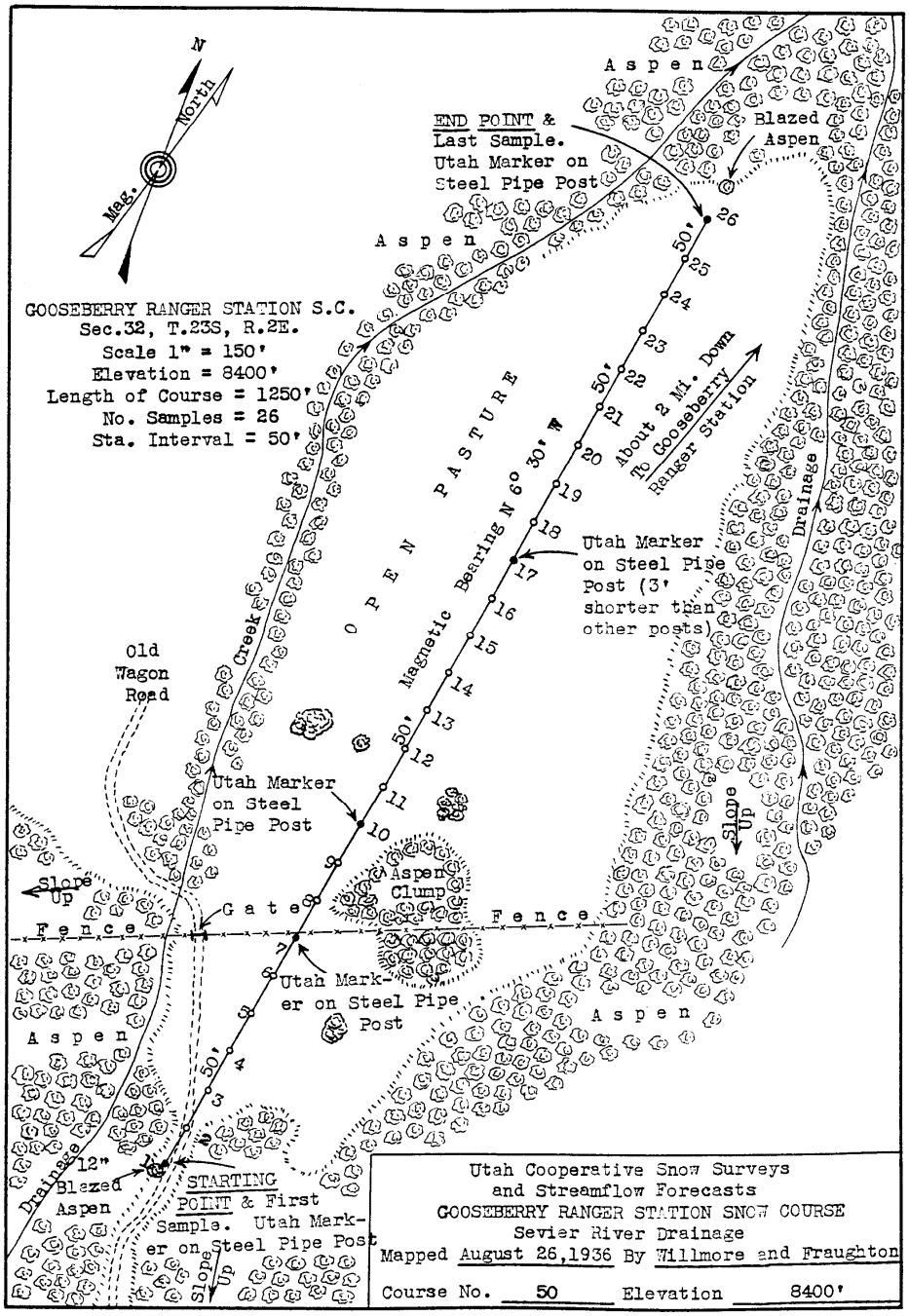
These 1936 photos look along the axis of the course which runs nearly north/south. Notice the open meadow and the location of the aspen trees.

This 2006 photo was taken looking south along the snow course. The aspens are in the same location but have grown in height and there has been little to no encroachment into the meadow itself.

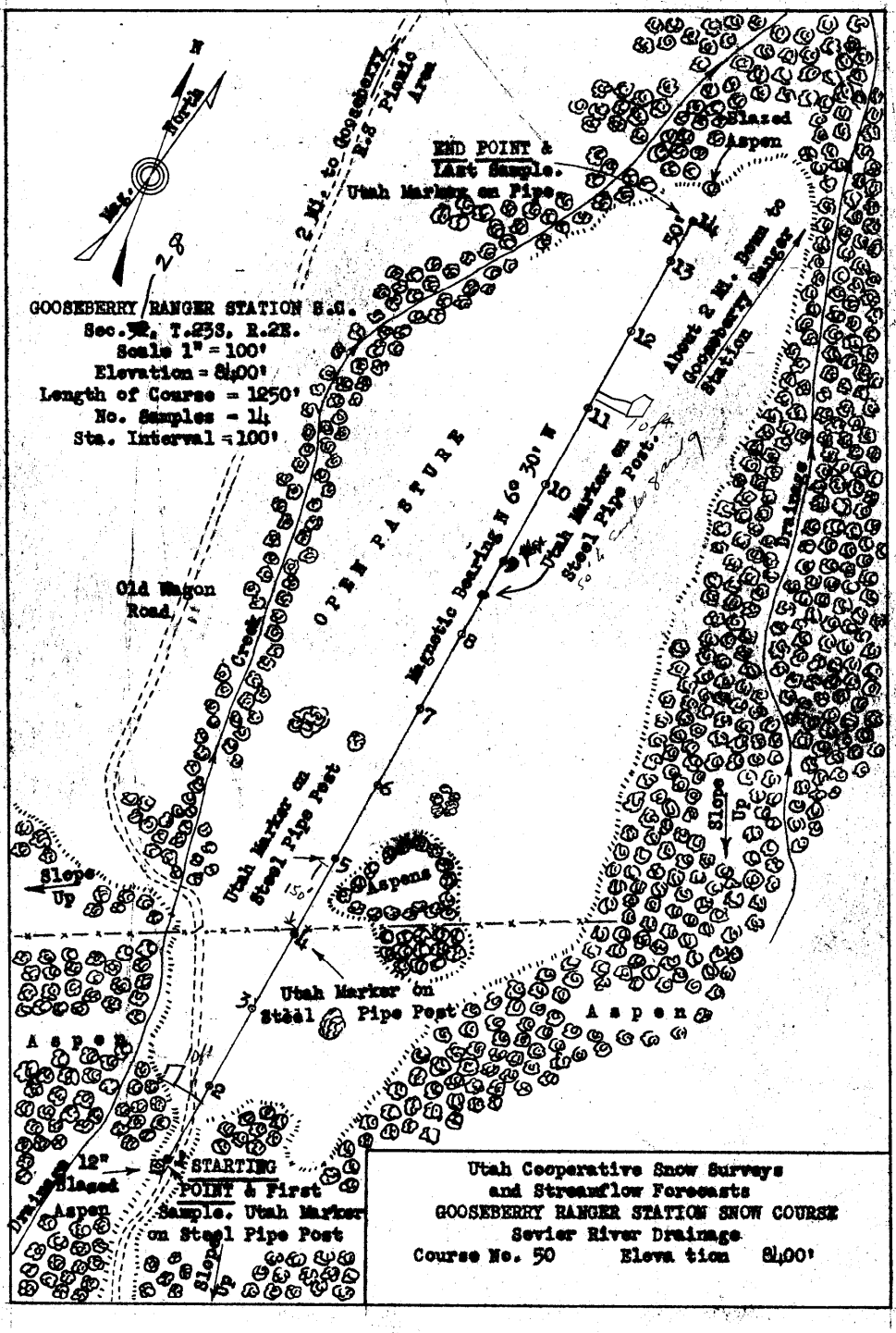
This is a photo looking to the north, even the aspens on the surrounding mountain sides have remained relatively constant. This course has had no impact from vegetation encroachment over the past 80 years.



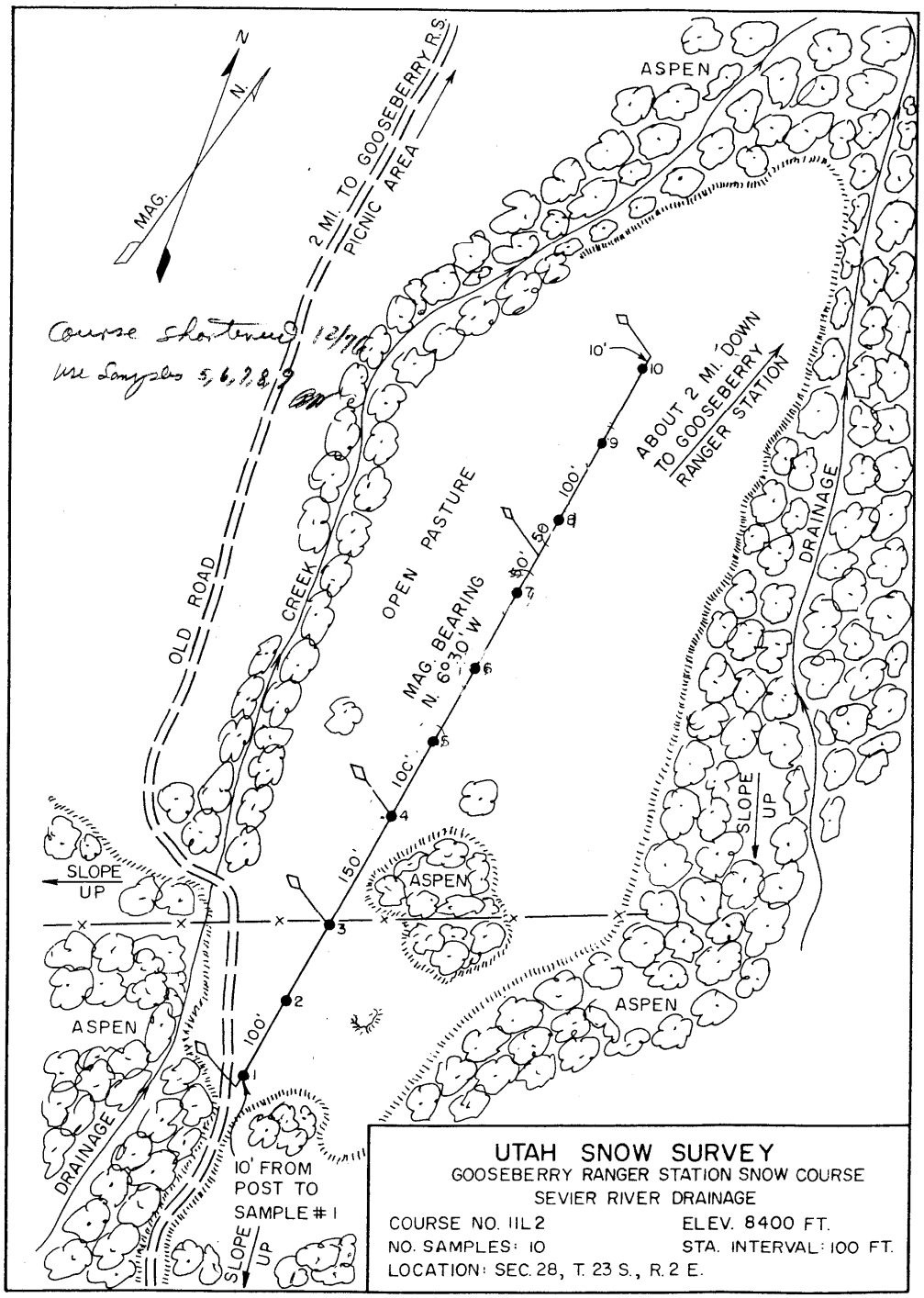
Original Gooseberry snow course map.



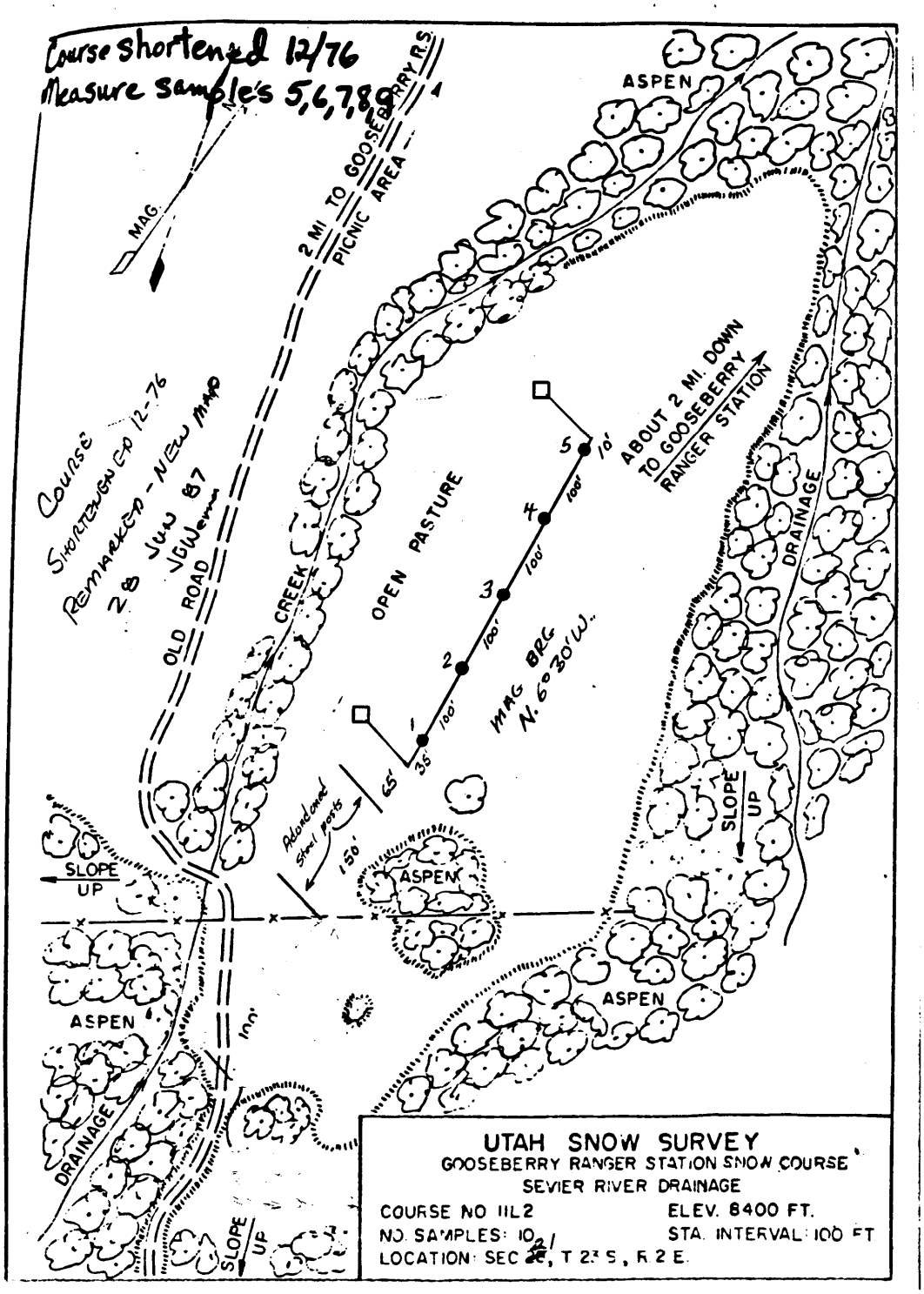
1936 version.



Course shortened to 13 points.

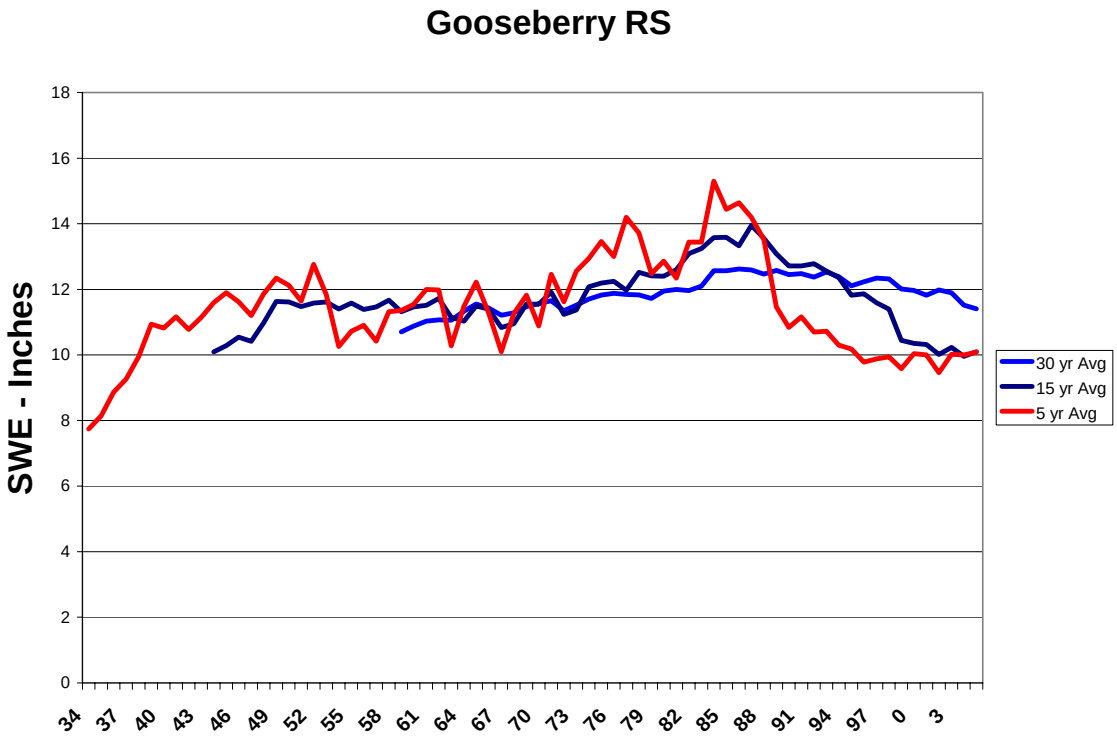


Course shortened to 10 points.



Course shortened to 5 points and renumbered.

When a snow course was shortened, the original points continued to be measured although renumbered, thus points 1,2,3,4 and 5 may have originally been points 13,14,15,16 and 17. This map also shows the relative position of vegetation and other features with respect to the course. Distances are not measured and asterisks do not represent individual trees rather a general depiction of vegetation. The density of vegetation is also relative and not absolute.



In this chart of the 5, 15, and 30 year running averages, one can see a relatively steady snowpack over the years punctuated by some dramatic ups and downs. It started off (5 year running average) extremely low in the 30's and the dustbowl era and has dropped off in the early 90's to current times. The 30 year average has been pretty steady, essentially no real change over time.

This course is recommended for long term comparisons.

R Julander
2007